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Letter dated 7 April 2014 addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations

Attached herewith is a copy of the letter of H.E. David Choquehuanca Céspedes and the national report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2014 of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2014 addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations

I have the honour to refer to the national report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2014 of the Economic and Social Council in July of 2014.

In this regard, the Plurinational State of Bolivia wishes to present herewith the country report on progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2014 of the Economic and Social Council. The report also contains information concerning the 2025 Patriotic Agenda, which constitutes for our country a comprehensive programme of development in the framework of Living Well and respect for the rights of Mother Earth, and its vision of the agenda for development subsequent to 2015.

The present report emphasizes the model of comprehensive development for Living Well, which serves as an important basis for understanding advances and pending challenges to progress towards the fulfilment of the commitment assumed in the Millennium Declaration.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) David **Choquehuanca Céspedes**
Minister of External Relations

La Paz, 4 April 2014

National report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Economic and Social Council

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and future challenges to sustainable development

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I. Introduction

The World Summit of 2005 requested the Economic and Social Council to conduct an Annual Ministerial Review of progress towards the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals, and pursuant to that agreement member States present voluntary reports in the framework of the Annual Ministerial Review.

In this regard, the Plurinational State of Bolivia presents its country report on progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It then offers a perspective on the agenda beyond 2015. Further, a fundamental step has been taken towards formulation of a consistent set of pillars and goals to be attained by 2015, known as the 2025 Bicentennial Patriotic Agenda.

The report prepared reflects in substance the seventh MDG progress report of Bolivia and the 2025 Bicentennial Patriotic Agenda, which constitutes a comprehensive development programme for Bolivia in the framework of Living Well and respect for the rights of Mother Earth. Contributions from sectoral ministries and from organized civil society and social movements are also included.

This report focuses on the development model for Living Well, which serves as an important precedent for understanding advances and pending challenges in progressing towards fulfilment of the commitment assumed in the Millennium Declaration. In that context, "Living Well" is the civilizing vision and cultural alternative to capitalism and modernity that emerges from the world views of indigenous, native and peasant nations and peoples and intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities. It is conceived in an intercultural context and is realized, collectively in complementarity and solidarity, integrating in its practical realization social, cultural, political, economic, environmental and affective dimensions, among others, in order to make possible a harmonious encounter among all beings, components and resources of Mother Earth.

It also means living in complementarity, harmony and balance with Mother Earth and with societies, in equity and solidarity, eliminating inequalities and mechanisms of domination.

"Living Well" relates directly to the general welfare of people, i.e. to additional elements that are part of their daily life and that of the social groups with which they interrelate. In that context, the important things are steady, decent employment, adequate income, decent housing, education, transportation, electric power, water, sanitation, communications and other material and spiritual elements in full harmony with nature and Mother Earth.

II. Context

The model implemented since 2006 is the Community Socio-Economic and Productive Model for Living Well, aimed at achieving economic development with income redistribution. The bases of this model are:

- **Growth and development based on utilization of natural resources**: generating a larger economic surplus.
- **Appropriating the economic surplus**: the recovery of natural resources means that the surpluses they generate now remain with the Plurinational State of

Bolivia and are redistributed to other sectors that generate income and employment.

- **Redistributing income**: economic surplus is redistributed especially among low-income people (cash transfers, public investment, inversely proportional wage increases, cross-subsidization, etc.).
- **Reducing social inequality and poverty**: the model encompasses a social vision.
- **Respect for the rights of Mother Earth**: essentially, the right to life and the right to diversity of life, strengthening the regeneration capacity of the living systems of Mother Earth.

In this framework, transfers of economic surplus are made from strategic sectors (hydrocarbons, mining, electric power, inter alia) to sectors that generate income and employment (manufacturing, tourism, housing, agricultural development, etc.).

By contrast with the neo-liberal model, in which the main economic actor was the private sector, Bolivia's new model recognizes a pluralistic economy in which there are other actors, such as cooperatives and communities, and in which the State constitutes the principal actor in the economic model, intervening in the economy in seven capacities: as planner, entrepreneur, investor, regulator, benefactor, banker and promoter.

The Political Constitution of the State provides that the State should promote the community-based economy with technological and financial support, and should also promote integration of the different economic forms of production, aimed at achieving economic and social development with redistribution of income.

With the nationalization of strategic natural resources, the State recovered economic surpluses that were being transferred abroad and now redistributes them to sectors that generate a surplus, financing the industrialization process that is being pursued in order to build an industrialized and productive Bolivia and to advance a robust social policy in favour of the population.

Eight years into the implementation of the new economic model, Bolivia achieved sustained economic growth, driven by external and internal demand; that was the engine which reactivated the economy and supported growth in an unfavourable international climate. Similarly, macroeconomic stability was attained. For eight consecutive years the public sector showed a budget surplus, international reserves exceeded $14 billion and were the highest in Latin America as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), total public debt as a percentage of GDP was below thresholds laid down by international agencies, and monetary policy has recovered thanks to the Bolivianization of the economy, which exceeds 80 per cent of credits and 75 per cent of deposits.

Because the model merges the economic and the social, there have also been significant advances in the latter as a result of social policies pursued by the central Government.

With the promulgation of the Act on the Rights of Mother Earth (Act No. 071) and the Framework Act on Mother Earth and Comprehensive Development for Living Well (Act No. 300), Bolivia has implemented Living Well in intercultural public policy through an approach based on four complementary rights:

- The rights of Mother Earth as a collective subject of public interest.

- The collective and individual rights of indigenous, native and peasant nations and peoples.
- The fundamental civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of peoples through their comprehensive development, which includes, inter alia, fundamental access to water and to basic services.
- The rights of the urban and rural population to live in a just, equitable society with solidarity and without material, social and spiritual poverty.

In this framework, complementarity of rights is the basis for harmonious coexistence between the Bolivian people, indigenous, native and peasant nations and peoples, intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities and Mother Earth.

III. Fulfilling the commitment of the Millennium Declaration: progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Bolivia

In the Millennium Declaration, signed in 2000, Bolivia assumed a commitment to the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as a worldwide effort to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, and to create a global partnership for development.

In the case of Bolivia, monitoring progress towards the MDGs is a joint task carried out by agencies that make up the Inter-Agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals (*Comité Interinstitucional de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio*), comprising different ministries of the executive branch directly involved in activities geared to the MDGs.

To date, Bolivia has important achievements to its credit. In 2011, the goal of reducing extreme poverty was reached; efforts towards ensuring completion of primary education are back on track; major strides have been taken towards affording equal opportunity to boys and girls in the country; and there have been important improvements in indicators of health, such as reaching the goal for institutional deliveries ahead of schedule. However, further efforts are needed to fulfil the remaining commitments in this area.

Progress on access to water has been significant, as the goal was reached ahead of schedule. However, further efforts will be needed to provide more people with access to basic sanitation.

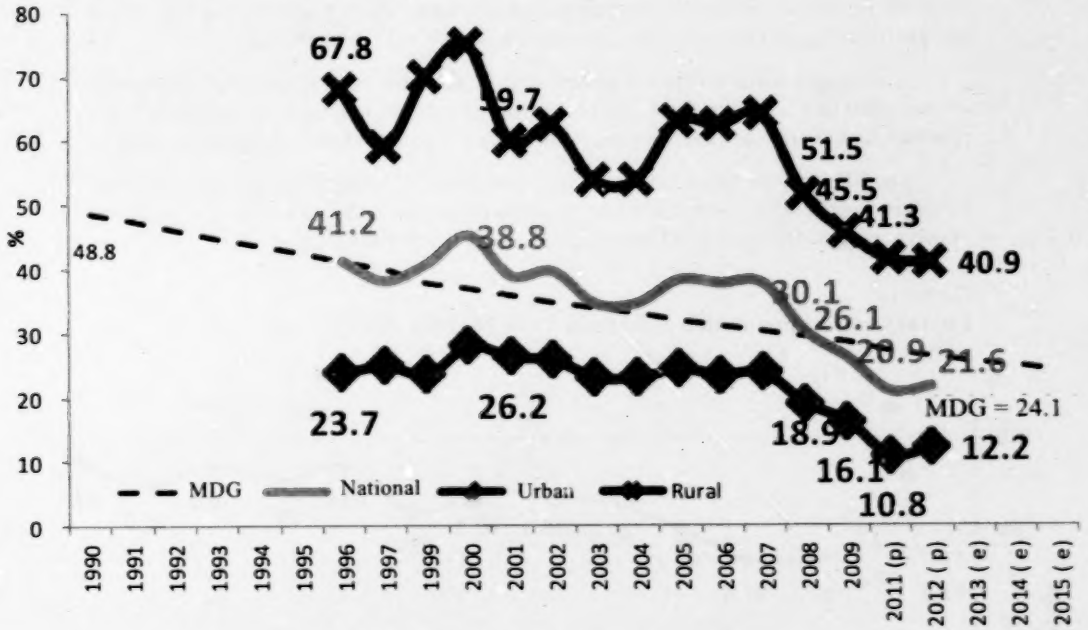
It should be noted that in recent years there has been a series of reductions in the percentage that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) allocates to official development assistance (ODA) because it jeopardizes the fulfilment of the MDGs.

Millennium Development Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Beginning in 2007 significant advances were made in reducing extreme poverty as a result of several factors, including growth in household incomes from employment, Government policies to stabilize food prices in the basic basket, and a policy of transferring resources to the at risk population. In 2012, the percentage of

population in extreme poverty was 21.6 per cent, below the goal of 24 per cent that had been set for 2015; nevertheless there remain geographical disparities. Productivity of labour grew by an average of 1.4 per cent per year from 1990 to 2012, which implies growth in the added value generated by the Bolivian economy per employed person. In 2012, 6 of every 10 people were employed; however, there are significant differences disaggregated by area of residence: in rural areas 80 per cent of people of working age were employed, while in urban areas 50 per cent were employed.

Figure I
Incidence of extreme poverty and projections, 1990-2015



Source: Economic Policy Analysis Unit of Ministry of Planning and Development; based on National Institute of Statistics household surveys, 1996-2012. p = preliminary estimate; e = projection.

Chronic undernutrition among children below age three, which is one of the forms of hunger, showed a decline in the period from 1989 to 2012 from 41.7 per cent to 18.5 per cent; however, there remain socioeconomic inequalities. This reveals that progress has been uneven in the population as a whole, since the poorest are the most seriously affected.

Economic policies implemented in the country have driven increased growth in GDP, resulting in improvements in levels of employment, a reduced rate of open unemployment, and a partial improvement in the incomes of those employed in sectors where production has increased.

Resources have been transferred to the most vulnerable households in order to combat poverty through cash transfer programmes.

With regard to nutrition, the main thrust has been the *Desnutrición Cero* ("Zero Undernutrition") Multisectoral Programme, which seeks through partnership between social and productive ministries to implement comprehensive actions in municipalities in the country most vulnerable to food insecurity, aiming to improve nutrition among children under age five.

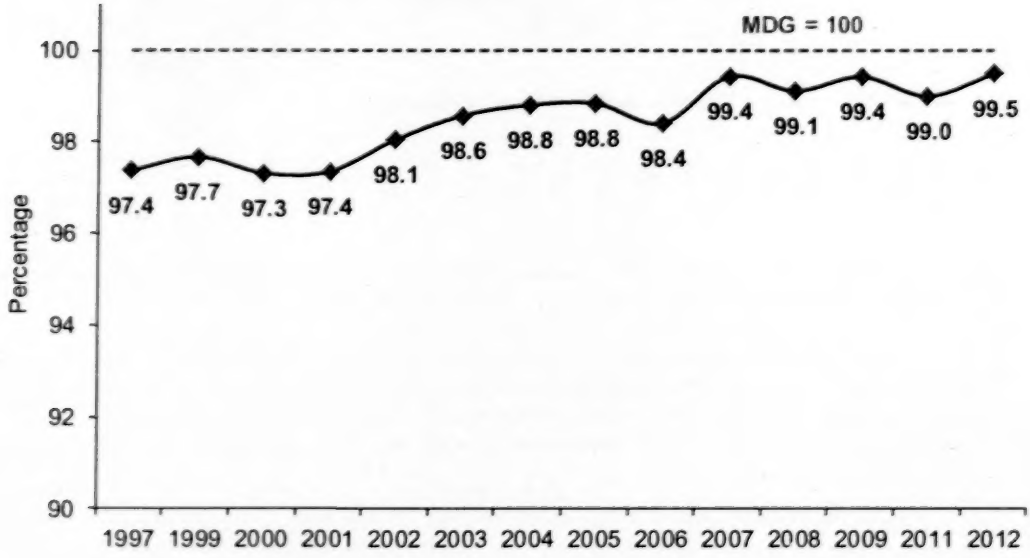
Millennium Development Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

In 2011 the net enrolment rate in primary education was 82.2 per cent, representing a shortfall of 17.8 percentage points in relation to the goal set for 2015 (100 per cent). The literacy rate for the population aged 15 to 24 years showed a rising trend from 1997 onward and reached 99.5 per cent in 2012. The substantial increase in literacy is due to the literacy programme "*Yo sí puedo*" (Yes I can) and the post-literacy programme "*Yo sí puedo seguir*" (Yes I can continue).

Among the main initiatives aimed at primary education is the implementation of the *Juancito Pinto* school voucher programme, which is a cash transfer for primary school students that has improved school enrolment and completion rates.

The Ministry of Education has also been working with municipal governments to enhance school infrastructure and equipment. Actions have also been carried out aimed at improving quality of education through teacher training.

Figure II
Literacy rate of population aged from 15 to 24, 1997-2012
(As percentages)



Source: Economic Policy Analysis Unit of Ministry of Planning and Development; based on INE household surveys, 1996. p = preliminary estimate.

Millennium Development Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

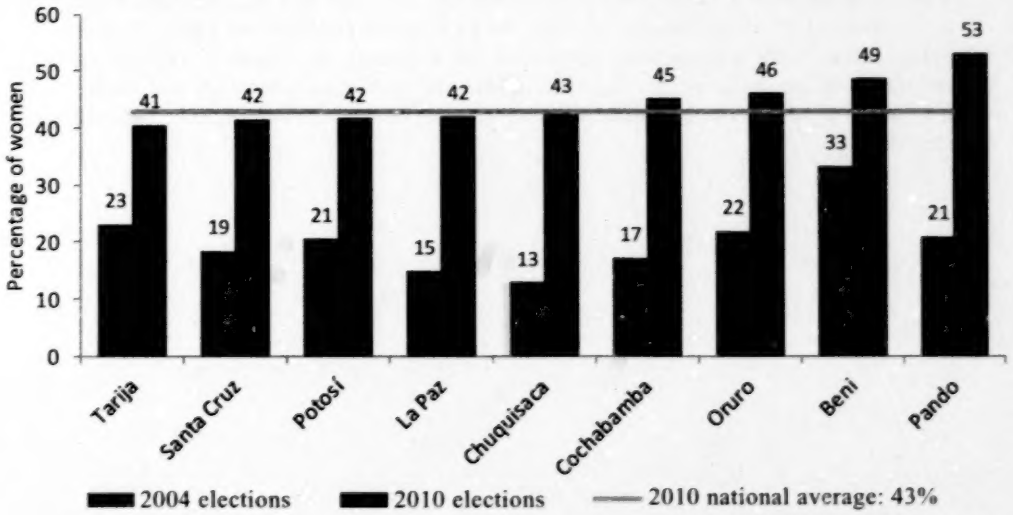
In Bolivia the gender gap in the enrolment rate for primary school improved substantially in the period 1992-2011. From a 9.7 per cent difference in favour of males in 1992, it changed by 2011 to a 1.2 per cent difference in favour of the female population.

In 2012 3 out of every 10 salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector were women, which indicates that Bolivia still has marked segregation by sex in the labour market.

With regard to political participation, the presidential elections of 2009 gave rise to growing participation by women both in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly and in municipal councils. In the latter, the 2010 elections yielded a higher percentage of seats held by women in every department in the country.

A major development in the period 2010-2013 was a considerable normative improvement in safeguarding the rights of Bolivian women in the areas of citizen rights, political participation, violence, health and employment.

Figure III
Percentage of women councillors by department, 2004 and 2010

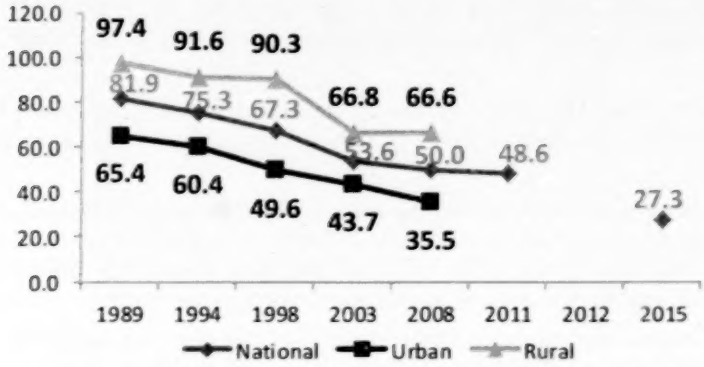


Source: Sixth progress report of Bolivia on the Millennium Development Goals. Economic Policy Analysis Unit of Ministry of Planning and Development (2010).

Millennium Development Goal 4. Reduce the under-five mortality rate

With regard to child mortality, the under-five mortality rate remains high (58.0 per 1,000 live births) compared with other countries of the region. Although the year 2011 saw a significant drop in infant mortality (48.6 per 1,000 live births), there remains the problem of neonatal mortality.

Figure IV
Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births): 1989-2011



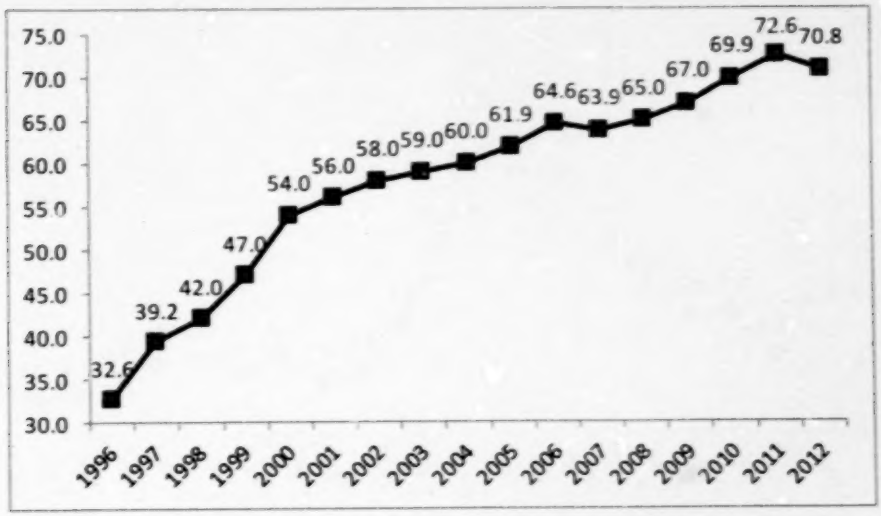
Source: Economic Policy Analysis Unit of Ministry of Planning and Development; data from demographic and health survey, 1989, 1994, 1998, 2003 and 2008, and household survey, 2011.

With regard to immunization, vaccination of children under one year of age with the third dose of pentavalent vaccine attained 79.7 per cent in 2012, indicating that additional efforts are needed to reach the goal set for 2015 (95 per cent). Work is going ahead with autonomous municipal governments to improve vaccination coverage, in complement to activities under the Universal Maternal and Infant Insurance (SUMI),[1] which continues to be the most important policy in reducing child mortality.

[1] Universal Maternal and Infant Insurance (SUMI) is a free insurance programme that provides health benefits at all levels of health of the National Health System for pregnant women, from the start of pregnancy through the sixth month after delivery, and to children from birth through age five.

Millennium Development Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Figure V
Institutional delivery ratio: 1996-2012



Source: Economic Policy Analysis Unit of Ministry of Planning and Development; data from the national health information system.

In 2012, 71 per cent of deliveries were attended by institutional personnel, so that the goal set for 2015 (70 per cent) was reached ahead of schedule. The Bono Juana Azurduy programme, which has been in effect since 2009, has helped to improve this indicator in recent years. The strategic national plan to improve maternal, perinatal and neonatal health, also being applied, aims at the provision of essential services to pregnant women, mothers and newborns in the home and community and boosts the response by services of the health-care system to this population group.

With regard to universal access to reproductive health, contraceptive use increased from 30.3 per cent in 1989 to 60.6 per cent in 2008, while the fertility rate among adolescents declined slightly by 5 births per 1,000 adolescent women (from 94 in 1989 to 89 in 2008). The percentage of the population with unmet family planning needs in rural areas was twice that of urban areas (27.5 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively).

Among successful policies aimed at Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 are implementation of the Intercultural Community Family Health Programme (SAFCI), which encourages active involvement by the community at different levels in the sector; the Bono Juana Azurduy ("Juana Azurduy voucher") which encourages the use of free health services relating to mother and child health; the Universal Maternal and Infant Insurance scheme providing free benefits to pregnant women and children under age five; and the Desnutrición Cero ("Zero Undernutrition") programme, which seeks by intersectoral approaches to improve nutrition of the under-five population.

Millennium Development Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Figure VI

Annual parasite incidence (per 1,000 inhabitants): 1990-2012

Source: Malaria Vigilance and Control Strategy.

As regards combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, the data indicate that the prevalence of AIDS cases in 2012 was 83.4 people per million inhabitants, a figure which has held steady since 2007. Where malaria is concerned, the annual parasite incidence (API) held steady in recent years; however, from 2005, (5.5 per 1,000 inhabitants) to 2012 (2.1 per 1,000 inhabitants) there has been a reduction of more than 50 per cent as a result of implementation of most of the programmed activities. This indicator will have been reached ahead of schedule, since the goal was an API of two per 1,000 inhabitants by 2015.

With respect to Chagas disease, it has not been possible in the last four years to reduce infection rates by 25 per cent for municipalities with Chagas infection rates above 3 per cent, so that achievement of this goal is at risk, since there would have to be no municipality with a Chagas infestation rate above 3 per cent by 2015.

In 2012, 84.2 per cent of notified tuberculosis patients were cured, since activities designed to ensure that patients followed through and completed treatment have been stepped up.

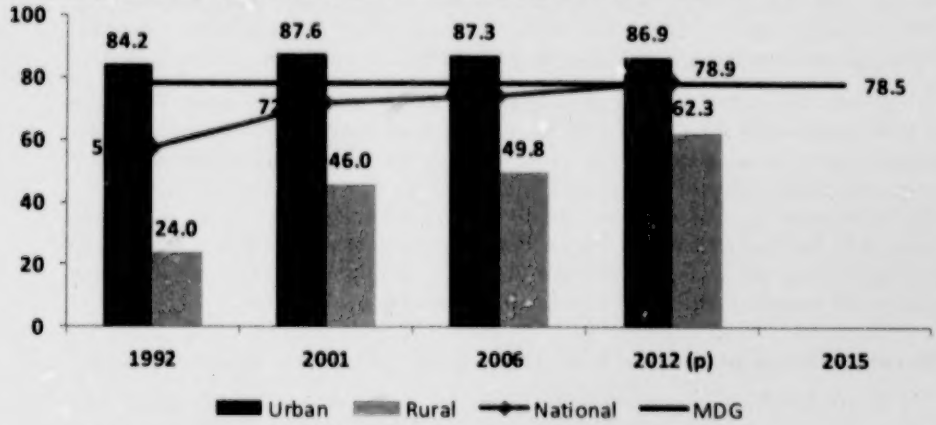
Among the most successful HIV/AIDS initiatives has been the consolidation of the *Centros Departamentales/Regionales de Información Vigilancia y Referencia* (Departmental/Regional Centres for Information, Monitoring and Referral), improving access to antiretroviral drugs and the effectiveness of schemes administered. In regard to malaria, the *Bolivia Libre de Malaria* (Malaria-Free Bolivia) programme under implementation has had a positive impact on reducing the number of notified cases.

With respect to Chagas, interventions under way have made it possible to obtain international certification for the departments of Potosí and La Paz as departments free of vector-borne transmission in homes.

With regard to tuberculosis, social organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have been used to strengthen patient follow-up activities so that patients will finish treatment.

Millennium Development Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Figure VII
Percentage of the population with a drinking water connection



Source: Ministry of the Environment and Water. p = preliminary.

The indicators relating to environmental sustainability have shown significant gains, especially with respect to consumption of materials that deplete the ozone layer. The most important stride has been the prohibition of imports of ozone-depleting substances. The proportion of national territory consisting of protected areas has been maintained at 17 per cent, which fulfils the goal set in this regard.

With regard to drinking water and basic sanitation, 78.9 per cent of the population in Bolivia was connected to drinking water in 2012, so that the millennium goal of 78.5 per cent for this indicator was met ahead of schedule. Efforts will continue to be exerted in order for more people to have access to basic sanitation.

Programmes and projects investing in improvement of access to drinking water and basic sanitation continue to be carried out, the most important being the programme called *Más Inversión para el Agua — MI AGUA* (More Investment for Water — MY WATER).

Beginning in 2009, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia decided to attach greater importance to environmental issues within the Living Well paradigm. The Ministry of the Environment and Water was created as an independent institution to address environmental matters and develop policies and plans based on Bolivia's vision of respect for Mother Earth. Similarly, and in order to strengthen it, in 2012 the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth was created as an institution with jurisdiction in the field of climate change with a view to ensuring that this important consideration is treated as a cross-cutting factor in order to give greater attention to the development of the country.

Climate change and its effects are among the most important factors when it comes to planning in the country because climate change, as a cross-cutting factor, needs to be considered by various sectors. For that reason, the Bolivian Government is investing major effort on policies and implementation, considering this component in the economic, environmental and social spheres.

In this regard, a substantial investment has been made on research regarding effects on climate and climate variability in connection with retreating glaciers. On average, loss of glacier area from 1980 to 2009 was 38.14 per cent at the national level (37.4 per cent in the Cordillera Real mountain range, 37.29 per cent in the Cordillera Tres Cruces mountain range, and 39.74 in the Cordillera Apolobamba mountain range).

Efforts have been focused on measures of adaptation to this impact by means of pilot projects, in rural areas relating to impact on water resource regulation for farming and in urban areas for supply of drinking water to high-altitude cities with strong population growth, such as La Paz and El Alto. The project called *Adaptación a la Retracción de Glaciares en los Andes Tropicales* (Adaptation to Retreating Glaciers in the Tropical Andes) has become an important pilot initiative because of its implications for sectoral and local planning, including climatic variables that may favour or prevent effects of climate on sustainable development.

Millennium Development Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

In 2012, 87.1 per cent of Bolivian homes had access to mobile telephony, representing 5.4 percentage points more than in 2011 and 43.6 percentage points more than in 2006. Regarding homes with access to land lines, an increase from 19.0 per cent in 2005 to 21.7 per cent in 2012 was observed.

By contrast, OECD countries earmarked an average of 0.29 per cent of their gross national income to ODA, representing a reduction of 0.02 per cent by comparison with 2011 and 0.03 per cent by comparison to 2010. These consecutive reductions imply retreat from the goals they had established, since it should be recalled that these countries undertook to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA in order to reduce poverty in the world and advance towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Other national actions contributing to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals in Bolivia

With the implementation of the Community Socio-Economic and Productive Model, Bolivia reached sustained economic growth, which was driven by external and internal demand. This was the engine that reactivated the model and sustained growth in an unfavourable international context. Public policies were developed to respond to small productive units with credits, grants of supplies and machinery, technical assistance and prioritization of national production.

Likewise, implementation of the Agricultural Development Plan: Agrarian Productive Revolution has contributed to reducing poverty and hunger in rural areas by increasing food production and raising income levels.

Initiatives have been implemented in support of different indigenous peoples through provision of equipment infrastructure and promotion of sustainable productive development. One of these intersectoral interventions is the Strategy for Eradication of Extreme Poverty in the Isiboro Sécure National Park and Indigenous Territory, aimed at

the Mojeño-Trinitario, Tsimane and Yaracaré indigenous communities, comprising three interrelated dimensions that make it possible to pursue comprehensive management of resources and establish levels of coordination between social organizations and different levels and institutions of the State. These dimensions are: (a) human development; (b) productive development; and (c) institutional management. The first aims at providing basic services (drinking water, electric power, education, health, telecommunications and housing), while the second aims at promoting productive occupations among the inhabitants. The third dimension focuses on strengthening the role of the State in coordination with local authorities.

In addition, the productive economy has been strengthened by (a) creating and bolstering public enterprises which have channelled income redistribution towards small producers and ensured that the internal market is supplied at fair prices; and (b) implementing policies, standards and mechanisms to encourage productive investment and restructuring the rural economy, such as cross-subsidization (Pro-Leche Fund, Sugar Cane Act), innovative financing mechanisms for small producers, e.g. EMAPA (*Empresa de Apoyo a la Producción de Alimentos* — Enterprise to Support Food Production), *Fondeo Sindicado* (Syndicated Funding).

IV. Overcoming obstacles to structural change in the country: 2025 Bicentennial Patriotic Agenda

2025 Patriotic Agenda

With a view to building an agenda for comprehensive development over the long term, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, by Supreme Decree No. 1506 of 27 February 2013, established the Office of the Presidential Representative for participatory development of a Patriotic Agenda for the 2025 Bicentennial, and laid down 13 fundamental pillars for a dignified and sovereign Bolivia as the foundations of a new civilization and cultural horizon for Living Well.

The 13 pillars and goals of a Dignified and Sovereign Bolivia are the following:

Pillar 1. Eradication of extreme poverty

Eradication of extreme poverty in Bolivia is the first step towards enjoying a fuller life, the first obstacle to be overcome on the way to Living Well in harmony with Mother Earth. To achieve effective eradication of poverty, it is necessary to go beyond traditional conceptions. The 2025 Bicentennial Patriotic Agenda goes beyond the search for countries' economic well-being, beyond human development, proposing comprehensive eradication of poverty, struggling against material, spiritual and social poverty, considering the human person as part of a larger system, and seeking comprehensive development aimed at Living Well in harmony with Mother Earth.

To that end, six goals are envisaged with specific endeavours aimed at eradicating extreme poverty, material and spiritual.

- **Goal 1**. Bolivia has eradicated extreme material poverty and will have significantly reduced moderate poverty by 2025.

Achieving eradication of extreme material poverty calls for specific actions including continued pursuit and deepening of policies for redistribution of wealth,

sustained increase in the minimum wage and public investment. It also calls for reallocation of resources and efforts of international cooperation, giving priority to municipalities and regions in extreme poverty. Further, it means that State entities responsible for basic services such as health, education, water, basic sanitation, electric power, housing, telecommunications and transport should give priority to initiatives that benefit the population in extreme and moderate poverty.

- **Goal 2**. Bolivia has combated social poverty by stressing community values over individualism. That aim is pursued by such means as education, dissemination and promotion of community attitudes and values fostering respect, solidarity and the common good.

- **Goal 3**. Bolivia no longer has captive communities, any form of servitude or slavery and exploitation of child labour.

That goal is pursued, inter alia, through specific endeavours such as making Government presence felt in high-risk areas for monitoring and oversight of labour rights, particularly regarding intensive farm labour. There is also determination to ensure full compliance with labour rights of all Bolivian women and men.

- **Goal 4**. Bolivia's institutions and society vigorously combat discrimination and racism, and uphold respect, solidarity and complementarity.

Actions undertaken to reach that goal are, among others, directly combating all forms of racism and discrimination through educational campaigns and dissemination of the values embodied in the Constitution.

- **Goal 5**. Bolivia fights spiritual poverty by campaigning against commercialism and consumerism, racism, fascism, male chauvinism, authoritarianism, selfishness and greed, strengthening the decisive role of women, young people, and girls and boys, and the wisdom of our grandfathers and grandmothers to promote Living Well.

Actions undertaken in pursuit of that goal are eliminating and punishing violence against women in all forms — physical, psychological, femicidal, symbolic, sexual or portrayed in the media, directed against sexual and reproductive rights, occurring in health services, relating to property and the economy, labour-related, occurring in the plurinational educational system, in the exercise of politics and leadership by women institutionally and in the family.

- **Goal 6**. In Bolivia we refer to each other as brothers and sisters because we are part of a great family; we have decolonized ourselves and are building the new, whole human being for Living Well. To that end, we will promote a change in thinking and attitudes of every Bolivian man and woman through a cultural revolution that has at its core the full development of the human person, through pursuit of all his/her activities, with the following endeavours.

Pillar 2. Socialization and universalization of basic social services with sovereignty for Living Well

The Political Constitution of the State lays down that basic services constitute human rights and it is the obligation of the State to ensure full access by the Bolivian people to those services under equitable conditions and in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. This pillar comprises the following five goals.

- **Goal 1**. Universal access to water and sanitation

The Constitution expressly recognizes the right to water and sewerage; accordingly, the State is on track to achieve universal and equitable access and effective enjoyment of this human right.

One of the most important challenges under this goal is meeting the criteria of universality, accessibility, continuity, quality, efficiency, effectiveness, equitable rates and coverage, with social participation and control. Another equally important challenge is the dispersed pattern of the population in rural areas, where 95 per cent of communities have a population of fewer than 500 inhabitants.

- **Goal 2**. Telephone and internet services for 100 per cent of Bolivian women and men.

Actions to reach this goal are, inter alia, expanding telecommunications infrastructure to ensure broadband access providing accessible quality services, as well as technological innovation and convergence to achieve total connectivity in all communities by means of the Túpac Katari satellite.

- **Goal 3**. 100 per cent of Bolivian women and men have electric power and light.

Activities for the achievement of this goal include identification of potentials, and energy and technology requirements. Also, a participatory approach will be taken, with departmental and municipal governments, to developing departmental electrification plans.

- **Goal 4**. 100 per cent of Bolivian women and men are linked by systems of communication by land, river, air and satellite. To that end, a Fundamental Transportation Network (*Red Vial Fundamental*) is proposed, with departmental and municipal networks.

- **Goal 5**. 100 per cent of Bolivian women and men have organized means sponsored by the State to expeditiously obtain adequate and dignified housing, in keeping with their economic and social situation, with basic services, enabling them to live well. To that end, it is proposed to expand the supply of housing with State participation.

Pillar 3. Health, education and sport to train the whole human being

The significance of this pillar resides in its direct defence of the right of all Bolivian women and men to a full life, as it guarantees elementary rights of human beings: the right to health and education, to sport and art, to conceiving human life, in both its physical and spiritual dimensions.

Health

By 2025, Bolivian women and men will fully exercise their right to health by access to the single system of Intercultural Community Family Health on a universal and free basis, through functioning health services that provide comprehensive intercultural services with quality care, in the framework of participatory and intersectoral management. Two goals have been set for the health sector:

- **Goal 1**. 100 per cent of Bolivian men and women have health services.

Achieving this goal will mean, inter alia, making health services free and promoting health through the Intercultural Community Family Health model.

- **Goal 2**. Integrating conventional and ancestral medicine with committed and trained personnel. It is proposed to strengthen services and networks by enhancing quality and making them culturally appropriate.

Education

By 2025, education will be de-commercialized, will value and advance forms of knowledge, and will produce new kinds of knowledge with their own identity. Technical, scientific and productive training will be innovative. It will be open to the community and to cultural diversity, participatory, and responsive to productive aptitudes and vocations. The educational system will be unified, with adequate, quality infrastructure. It will shape new persons free of colonial and patriarchal attitudes. They will be plurilingual, will promote intraculturalism and relate interculturally, will be inclusive, free of violence, subjects for life and a part of life. There are two goals for the education sector:

- **Goal 3**. 100 per cent of Bolivian women and men will have access to free, public basic education, vocational education and higher education, and to the creation of art and culture.

Reaching that goal will mean, inter alia, consolidating the community socioeconomic and productive educational model. It is also proposed to proceed with accreditation and certification of the system of university education.

- **Goal 4**. Bolivia has infrastructure, teaching and research materials and equipment, as well as highly trained educators, professors, trainers, professionals and scientists, who engage in continuing education and make it possible to conduct educational, training, sports and artistic programmes of high calibre.

To reach that goal it is proposed, inter alia, to work for the restoration, recognition and appreciation of the wisdom, knowledge and productive techniques of indigenous, native and peasant peoples and intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities within the educational processes of the four educational sub-systems. It is proposed that centres for alternative or special education, and educational units of the regular educational system, should have programmes and equipment to carry out research, recovery of appropriate technologies and technical/technological and productive training. The transformation of education will be driven by community social mobilization and will lead to programmes and policies within the framework of the Community Socio-Educational Productive Model.

Sport

By 2025, the State is ensuring and promoting sports, recreational and competitive activities with quality and diversity of disciplines, improving sports participation at the national and international levels, gradually improving the quality of life of the population for Living Well. Two goals are proposed:

• **Goal 5**. Sport as a right, guaranteed by the State

This goal will be reached by strengthening and expanding physical education curricula throughout the plurinational educational system; promoting professional training for sports activities; and promoting and investing in sports infrastructure and equipment, including creation of plurinational schools dedicated to a specific sport (*Escuelas de Iniciación Deportiva Plurinacional*), plurinational schools dedicated to highly competitive practice of sports (*Escuela Deportiva Plurinacional del Alto Rendimiento*), and plurinational centres for competition sports training (*Centros Plurinacionales de Entrenamiento de Alto Rendimiento*).

• **Goal 6**. Universal access to sports

This goal will be reached through actions aimed at promoting sports institutions and implementing the plurinational sports system, as well as by establishing mechanisms to foster sports talents.

Pillar 4. Scientific and technological sovereignty with our own identity

The aim is to develop innovation, knowledge and technology in strategic, productive and service areas, with traditional knowledge, the wealth of local techniques and technologies, social and professional creativity complementing modern science. This pillar has five goals:

Goal 1. Technological research and development

This goal seeks to enhance interaction between forms of knowledge, bringing local and ancestral knowledge into contact with modernity, incorporating these forms of knowledge in support of development in areas considered fundamental to the country.

The most important actions to reach this goal are: (a) promoting creation and consolidation of the National Institute of Technology for Innovation and Industrialization, linking research and innovation in the areas of agricultural development, industrial processes, health, information and communication technologies, local and ancestral forms of knowledge, natural resources, environment and biodiversity, mining and energy; (b) a fund to promote technological research and development and innovation (R&D+I) for agricultural production, composed of resources from all actors in the sector, stemming from diverse sources; (c) generating fiscal and tax incentives for industries that use national technology.

Goal 2. Technological innovation

This goal seeks to foster technological innovation and recognize its value in different areas in which Bolivia may take the lead, i.e. production of functional and highly nutritious foods and pharmacopoeia products that are highly effective thanks to unique local varieties bred in conditions and characteristics that are specific to Bolivia's territory.

Among activities proposed is the creation of technical structures needed to facilitate transferring the results of research for improving processes and products intended for the market, and promoting technological innovation in the production of nutritional and medicinal foods.

Goal 3. Technology and forms of knowledge

This goal seeks to achieve sufficient volumes of products to ensure food security and sovereignty, guaranteeing an abundance of agricultural products such as food and medicinal plants, nurturing the national pharmacopoeia and strengthening knowledge about production.

The actions proposed are: (a) implementing policies with autonomous entities of the State so they can, with concurrent jurisdiction, undertake the planning of Science, Technology and Innovation to address regional development on the basis of productive vocations; and (b) promote and prioritize the production of Bolivian foods and pharmacopoeia, incorporating technology from ancestral and local knowledge.

Goal 4. Ancestral medicine

This goal seeks to re-validate local and ancestral knowledge and expertise, which, in coexistence and convergence with modern technology and practices, constitutes a contribution by Bolivia to the world. Specific actions are: (a) promoting the draft Act and complementary regulations for protection of local expertise, ancestral knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous, native and peasant nations; and (b) creating, implementing and giving impetus to a system of information and monitoring in the management of local and traditional knowledge and expertise in the field of science and technology.

Goal 5. Professional scientific training and specialization

The goal is to substantially increase and improve human talents, training the new professional and technical personnel of the Plurinational State at the highest level in various areas, placing special emphasis on sectors designated as strategic that, in their ethical and moral conduct, know how to live in harmony with Mother Earth in keeping with the "Living Well" model.

Among main activities, it is proposed to: (a) increase and improve human talents, promoting research in basic education; and (b) promote networks for research by priority sectors, lines and programmes with results in indexed publications.

Pillar 5. Community financial sovereignty without subservience to financial capital

The new economic model emphasizes the role of the State as leader in the economy. This new vision promotes control of strategic sectors with the aim of generating a surplus that can be transferred to sectors that generate employment and production, equitably distributing wealth and fighting poverty. The aim of pillar 5 is to strengthen the role of the State as the main actor in the economy, for which a greater input of financial resources is needed, without compromising sovereignty in policy design and implementation or macroeconomic stability.

From 2006 to the present, a noteworthy feature has been the growth in GDP and in per capita GDP, favourable balance in the non-financial public sector, the growth of deposits and loans in the financial system, increased savings and investment, increased net international reserves, and policies to control inflation of public debt. Challenges in maintaining community financial sovereignty are: (a) continuation of non-conditional external financing; (b) a more diversified national financial system; (c) having foreign investment in the framework of a plural economy; and (d) maintaining healthy public finances. Pillar 5 contains the following six goals:

- External financial independence
- A financial system for comprehensive development
- Social foreign investment
- Tripling international financial reserves
- Fair markets
- Tripling income from Tourism

Pillar 6. Productive sovereignty with diversification and comprehensive development without the dictatorship of the capitalist market

This pillar seeks to boost and diversify agricultural production, conservation of forests and components of biodiversity, promote the artisan and manufacturing economy, strengthen the services sector in commerce, tourism, transport and communications, and give impetus to productive undertakings and community economic organizations as a whole.

- **Goal 1**. Consolidating fossil fuels and mining sector by a significant increase in natural reserves of gas and of mining resources and metals

The country's diversified economy will draw strength from growing exports stemming from mining, metals and steel-making. The fossil fuel sector will be consolidated as the driving force of development of the country's economy, with expansion and development of reserves of hydrocarbons to supply the growing demand for natural gas and oil in the domestic market and generating surpluses to foster national productive development.

Among the actions envisaged are: (a) expanding productive capacity in mining and metals; (b) developing strategies of diversification in mining production; and (c) intensive exploration at the national level by *Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos*, the State oil company.

- **Goal 2**. Bolivia will be a country that produces and processes foods, produces and exports electric power, and has tourism, artisan and manufacturing industries

To reach that goal, a strategic intervention by the State is proposed aimed at developing the full potential of manufacturing and farming, promoting State and private investment in production facilities.

- **Goal 3**. Improve agricultural production without obsolete technologies.

The aim of this goal is to avoid using polluting technologies that are harmful to health and destructive of social rights, technologies from transnationals of developed countries.

Strategic actions proposed are expansion of agricultural production in 41 agricultural zones and promotion of agricultural productivity and productive capacities of actors of the diversified economy in order to advance food sovereignty and productive diversification.

- **Goal 4**. Transformation of the system of production

Proposed actions are implementation of 41 service centres for mechanization; transfer of machinery, equipment, implements and agricultural production infrastructure; and creation of a mechanization technology centre.

• **Goal 5**. Reforestation

Forests are not considered idle land; rather, they are necessary, integral to production and processing of foods, biodiversity resources and medicines.

Proposed specific actions include agricultural production based on regimes differentiated by region, restoration and protection of legal environmental easements and reforestation of affected forest land.

• **Goal 6**. Soil management and conservation

This goal aims at efficient productive systems with high agricultural yields, incorporating the approach of living systems with a biocultural vision and sustaining the regenerative capacity of Mother Earth.

Strategic actions are proposed for identifying areas in process and in degradation and establishing a programme for recovery of degraded areas.

• **Goal 7**. Efficient systems of production

This goal proposes that all food producers should have universal systems for access to farm insurance, seed, financial services, technology, technical assistance, training and services for product processing.

• **Goal 8**. Conclude distribution, regrouping and redistribution of lands

Goal 8 sets 2025 as the date for identification of fiscal lands and conclusion of regrouping, redistribution of lands in keeping with their highest use in favour of the dispossessed, achieving a balance in land tenure.

• **Goal 9**. Democratization of production and building a pluralistic economy

Effectively linking the public, private, cooperative, community and mixed sectors in order to expand capacity for use of the factors of production between the actors of the pluralistic economy.

• **Goal 10**. Increase formal employment and workers' incomes

Generating continuous and sustainable sources of work, principally for young people, guaranteeing a dignified life through strengthening small and medium-sized businesses and massive and sustained financial investments in the productive sector.

The following strategic actions are proposed: (a) an efficient public employment service; and (b) establishing incentives and mechanisms to promote employment through consolidation of productive initiatives in different kinds of economic organizations.

• **Goal 11**. There will be no poor towns, departments or regions.

Significantly reducing regional inequalities and asymmetries, creating conditions for regional development, creating decent jobs, growing the economy, narrowing social inequalities in all municipalities and departments.

• **Goal 12**. Promoting product export opportunities

Means proposed to reach this goal are diversification, access, recognition, promotion and strengthening of the internal market, export promotion and opening of markets and development of exportable output with added value.

Pillar 7. Sovereignty over natural resources through nationalization and marketing in harmony and balance with Mother Earth

Reflected here is the role of the State in representing Bolivians as main actors in managing strategic resources through strengthening of strategic State enterprises.

Pursuant to the process of nationalization of hydrocarbon resources by Supreme Decree No. 28701 of 1 May 2006, the State oil company YPFB, on behalf of the State, has assumed ownership, possession and total control of hydrocarbon resources. Now the State is establishing the direction and control of the management of hydrocarbon resources and control of production; the operational capacity of YPFB has recovered, as has its role as a strategic enterprise engaged in all activities of the fossil fuels production chain.

Mining is recognized as a strategic sector of particular importance to the country in generating income and employment. Industrialization is a fundamental element of this pillar; industrial development of natural resources is a commitment of the State, a historic task that will confer added value on those resources, such as natural gas, lithium, steel, copper, etc. and contribute to strengthening the productive structure. This pillar comprises the following goals:

• **Goal 1**. Nationalization of natural resources

• **Goal 2**. Industrialization of natural resources

Pillar 8. Food sovereignty by building nutritional knowledge for living well

Food sovereignty by building nutritional knowledge for living well is one of the goals of the Patriotic Agenda, since it guarantees the fundamental right of people to a nutritious, healthy and adequate diet sufficient for living well.

Food production is considered a material basis of the Community Agricultural Productive Revolution. Its expansion will enable us to achieve food self-sufficiency, reduce poverty gaps, eradicate hunger and undernutrition, and narrow territorial disparities. To that end, an agricultural production matrix will be developed in each region, reinforcing healthy consumption habits through local production focused on community and peasant family farming. This pillar has three goals:

• **Goal 1**. By 2025 Bolivia will have ended hunger and undernutrition, and reduced malnutrition.

The main strategic initiatives include framing a national policy against hunger and undernutrition spanning the whole life cycle; the promotion of healthy and adequate nutrition designed to change consumer habits; and policies to ensure access to water and food.

• **Goal 2**. Autonomous departmental governments and indigenous, peasant, regional and municipal administrations are coordinating actions to ensure provision of school meal supplements, giving priority to local production and products from small producers in the framework of nutritional education.

It is proposed to expand the scope of the school breakfast programme, to promote nutritional education, and to implement programmes on an ongoing basis to train teachers to teach nutrition.

- **Goal 3**. Bolivia can produce the foods its population consumes, respecting cultural diversity and dietary preferences, including grains, tubers, vegetables and fruits.

Actions under consideration include implementing comprehensive agricultural policies, generating strategic reserves of food, and stimulating the market through centralized public procurement by the State.

Pillar 9. Environmental sovereignty with comprehensive development; respecting the rights of Mother Earth

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has adopted a definition of Mother Earth in Act No. 300: "Mother Earth is the living dynamic system comprised of the indivisible community of all living systems and living beings, interrelated, interdependent and complementary, that share a common destiny. Mother Earth is considered sacred under the world views of indigenous, native and peasant nations and peoples".

The approach is one of non-commercialization of the environmental functions of Mother Earth, strengthening the economy of Mother Earth to generate income without capitalist accumulation and with redistribution, respect for the rights of Mother Earth, management of living systems of Mother Earth consistently with cultural identity, and respect for the prevalent world-views. This pillar has eight goals:

- **Goal 1**. International recognition of the rights of Mother Earth.

The actions proposed include partnerships with countries of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas and others to consolidate a negotiating front with like-minded countries.

- **Goal 2**. International machinery with non-market-based approaches to develop sustainable systems of production.

Among the main actions is the conceptual and methodological development of proposals within the framework of Act No. 300 on Mother Earth and Comprehensive Development for Living Well.

- **Goal 3**. Development of economic-productive activities as a whole within a framework of respect for and complementarity with the rights of Mother Earth.

The strategic actions are:

- Adjustments to national environmental legislation and regulations in the sectors
- Technical work on recording and on the limits to regeneration of the components of Mother Earth
- Generating capacity to carry out complementary agreements with Mother Earth and strategic assessments of living systems
- Strengthening institutions of strategic importance

- **Goal 4**. Plurinational System of Protected Areas. The strategic actions are:

- Master plan for managing the Plurinational System of Protected Areas.

- Joint management plans with the administration of the State Protected Areas
- Tourism in protected areas
- Sustainable development
- Research and generation of knowledge in protected areas
- Adjustments to the rules of the National System of Protected Areas

• **Goal 5**. Development of sustainable systems of production in the framework of territorial management

Among actions proposed are those relating to strengthening initiatives for comprehensive and sustainable management with a view to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

• **Goal 6**. Increasing forest cover

Among actions proposed is the management of forestry and reforestation programmes with incentives, monitoring and oversight; and community management of newly reforested areas.

• **Goal 7**. Water and climate change risk prevention

Among strategic actions proposed is the management of climate change risks, prioritization of riverbeds for management, and management of highland plateau glaciers.

• **Goal 8**. Clean air, unpolluted rivers, and processing of solid wastes

Among strategic actions proposed is the development of new technologies for mining hydrocarbons with less pollution, and identifying new technologies for processes of recycling solid and liquid wastes.

Pillar 10. Complementary integration of peoples with sovereignty

Latin American integration has gone through many changes in recent years. Especially noteworthy is the emergence of new forms of integration and political concentration, such as the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), the *Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos* (Peoples' Trade Agreement), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The key features of these processes are: (a) regional autonomy with respect to the United States, and (b) replacing the "North-South" concept by the "South-South" concept.

In this connection, Bolivia plays a leading role in processes of Latin American integration and unity, given its advantageous geopolitical situation, its wealth in strategic resources and the international leadership of its President. The country may be considered a key participant in strengthening sovereign integration in Latin America (Latin American Integration Association, Andean Community, Southern Common Market, Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), *Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos* (Peoples' Trade Agreement), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and in the South-South relationship with Asia and Africa, and should put forward and advance the universalization of development in harmony with Mother

Earth and give shape to a multipolar and polycentric world. The following five goals and strategic actions are proposed:

Goals	*Strategic Actions*
• International agreements to resolve the climate crisis in the framework of common but differentiated responsibility • Adoption of international instruments recognizing the rights of Mother Earth	• Advancing and leading in the United Nations and all internal forums on issues relating to: climate change, indigenous peoples, the right to water and sanitation, decriminalization of the coca leaf, etc. • Advancing the organization of the World Summit of Social Movements and of Mother Earth.
• Advancing a World Organization of Peoples and Mother Earth in the framework of community democracy, without global hegemonies. • Effective participation in multilateral organs. • Building mechanisms for comprehensive development and integration of the States of the South and their peoples • Strengthening processes of integration and deepening of bilateral relations with peoples of Africa, Asia and the North. • Protecting Bolivia's human rights abroad. • Deepening bilateral relations in keeping with principles of respect, sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs.	• Pursuing initiatives to reform the United Nations and its Security Council, in order to create a multipolar and polycentric order. • Confronting attempts by imperialism to re-establish a unipolar world. • Taking an active and decisive stance in the multilateral arena. • Propounding the philosophy of Living Well through the Diplomacy of Peoples for Life. • Attaining food and productive sovereignty with diversification. • Developing complementary productive and commercial integration • Expanding bilateral relations on the basis of sovereignty and complementarity. • Achieving respect for and exercise of the rights of Bolivian emigrants and their participation in the building of the Plurinational State. • Enhancing the country's presence, through its diplomatic representatives.

Pillar 11. Sovereignty and transparency in managing public affairs according to the principles "Don't steal, don't lie, and don't be lazy."

Building an autonomous, community-based plurinational State

In 2006 Bolivia began a period of institutional management of public affairs focused on strengthening the central role of the State in conducting planning and redistributing additional income accruing from Direct Hydrocarbons Income (IDH), making possible reduced dependence on external financing.

For 2025, the challenge is consolidating citizen security, transforming and strengthening the Bolivian Police. It is also proposed to bolster the structure of the Armed Forces for integrated defence of the State and complementarity with national development. Initiatives will also be pursued with a view to making the management of public affairs more vigorous, decolonized, and decentralized, with distributed decision-making and a territorial approach.

Pillar 12. Full enjoyment of our holidays, our music, our rivers, our forests, our mountains, our snow-capped peaks, our clean air, our dreams

Bolivia has placed its hopes in a new civilization in which human beings and natural beings will coexist and lend support to each other. Its society will be worthily human and humanizing, living in a spirit of community and solidarity, practicing human values that are most constructive and most edifying in shaping an integrated human being. The goals of the patriotic agenda as regards enjoyment and happiness for living well are as follows:

- **Goal 1**. We men and women of Bolivia live in complementarity, solidarity and respect, working together in a brotherly spirit to uphold the rights of Mother Earth, the rights of indigenous peoples, the social, economic and cultural rights of the Bolivian people and the right of the people as a whole to live in a just and equitable society, without poverty.
- **Goal 2**. We men and women of Bolivia practice, strengthen and promote edifying links, humanitarian and human virtues and solidarity to lead a harmonious life. At our feasts, we dance with joy, giving thanks to Mother Earth. We respect and care for nature, we believe in our spirituality and faith, we listen to each other in order to get to know each other and recognize each other. We respect and help one another and promote the elimination of capitalist consumerism, selfishness and individualism.

To that end, the actions envisaged include rehabilitation of various cultural entities and promotion of our cultural expressions, such as dance, music, literature, theatre, embroidery, photography and all the visual arts.

Pillar 13. Sovereign reunion with our joy, our happiness, our prosperity and our ocean

With its own sovereign outlet to the sea, Bolivia could, inter alia, be a coastal country, recover its maritime character and essential geopolitical role, have access to the riches and resources of the seabeds, develop marine product industries, develop seagoing trade, generate greater momentum for finding its place internationally, generate alternative ways of exporting its products, develop tourism activities and services, and improve its human development indices.

V. The post-2015 agenda: renewing the commitment to a better world

The change to be achieved in the process of developing the post-2015 agenda should focus on avoiding causes that have brought us to the present crisis we are experiencing as Humanity and as a Planet, and on that basis to build a truly egalitarian agenda that benefits the peoples of the world and Mother Earth.

In Bolivia's view, the global crisis has structural causes, including the following:

- Accumulation and concentration of wealth in few countries
- Accumulation and concentration of wealth in small, privileged social groups
- Concentration of capital on quick-turnover, wealth-generating production and marketing of resources and goods

- Promotion of massive and excessive social consumption of products in the belief that having more is living better
- Massive production of disposable products to enrich capital, expanding the environmental footprint
- Excessive and unsustainable extractive production of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, with high environmental costs
- Concentrating capital on financial speculation in order to generate fast and copious profits
- Excessive public and social debt for the benefit of financial capital
- Making populations into subjects of high consumption on a massive scale
- Concentrating knowledge and technologies in rich countries and rich and powerful groups
- Extracting the largest quantum possible of economic and legal benefits of a public-statal character for the enjoyment of small groups of private individuals and investors
- Promoting financial practices and productive/extractive/commercial schemes that deteriorate the sovereign economy of States (especially developing States), monopolizing control of resources and income
- Reducing States to the role of weak regulators, putting investors in charge of the destinies of others and making States and peoples weak servants or associates, following the myth that foreign investment solves everything.

In this framework, in the view of the Government of Bolivia, the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 should not be confined to perpetuating an anthropocentric vision limited to ensuring the well-being of only one species inhabiting the planet, the "human being".

Over the years, the international community has recognized that Mother Earth is finite and that we cannot misuse the resources she provides for our sustenance and development. Indiscriminate and wasteful consumption is leading the planet to a severe crisis, a situation that is not sustainable for any inhabitant of the Earth.

The challenge of the post-2015 agenda is precisely to build a new paradigm for living in which nature is not treated as a source of raw materials to produce ever more merchandise and to fuel the unlimited private accumulation of capital; rather, to be sustainable, we must evolve from our economic system of unlimited consumerism of nature to one which is really sustainable with nature.

This agenda should not be content with extending or reformulating the Millennium Development Goals; rather, it should focus its efforts on promoting systematic global reforms that eliminate obstacles to development and on ensuring the existence of an international atmosphere favourable to promoting sustainable development.

Specific goals in some areas of economic and social development might complement, but not replace, a plan of action for systemic reforms.

We should not repeat patterns of the past that have led us to the imbalanced and unjust situations of today. If we wish a truly global development programme,

what we should do is learn lessons from the practices applied during recent decades with respect to development with growing international interdependence.

Developing countries need to be assured of the means to reach the comprehensive development we are striving for. In that framework, Bolivia is seeking distinctive development in which the balance between human beings and Mother Earth takes precedence over a selfish and destructive vision.

Bolivia supports a vision that includes the necessity of generating an environment favourable to implementing development policies and in which those policies go hand in hand with strong and sustained economic growth, industrialization with full employment and a greater distributive equity, all of the foregoing kept in a perspective of balance with nature.

In the context of the responsibility Bolivia has regarding the advancement and defence of Mother Earth, and with regard to promoting recognition of the different visions, models and tools available in the world to reach sustainable development, Bolivia has proposed certain bases for these to be taken into account in negotiations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in which Bolivia is taking an active part. The bases of the Bolivian proposal are as follows:

- Our vision of nature and the social pillar cannot be purely economic or financial; our vision of the economy must be environmentalist, humanist and social. We propose Living Well in Harmony with Mother Earth as the heart of our vision of development. Our vision of nature and human beings is comprehensively expressed in the concept of Mother Earth. We humans are also part of Mother Earth; we are human-social-natural beings.

- Global sustainable development goals should be based, inter alia, on the following principles and criteria that we consider fundamental: the right to development, necessary space for policies, sovereignty in decision-making by countries, common but differentiated responsibility, recognition of diversity in models and visions of development.

- It is necessary to make profound changes in the international financial architecture and its system of governance by favouring decisive participation of developing countries, building a financial system geared to effective eradication of poverty, and sustainable development in the framework of respect for different visions, models, approaches and tools of development of countries, promoting respect for sovereign decisions of countries and banishing all forms of financial colonialism that convert the international financial institutions into regulators and auditors, overseers or monitors of our economies and our society, prescribing formulas for development or using debt as a mechanism for blackmail or imposition of policies foreign to our realities. Development is the work of peoples.

- The Millennium Development Goals have not been fully achieved. The harsh reality is that there are 840 million people who are going hungry, 1.3 billion who are poor, 900 million without access to water, 2.6 billion without access to sanitation, and over 200 million unemployed, aggravated by the financial crisis of capitalism. There is still an agenda of unfinished tasks to eradicate the grave ills of hunger, poverty, ill health, lack of education and lack of water, among other things. The goals set for eliminating these grave ills have been reduced to their minimal expressions in the framework of the Sustainable

Development Goals, reducing the Millennium Development Goals to the level of indicators for the Sustainable Development goals or treating them as an appendix to the latter. The building of Sustainable Development Goals cannot take the place of a pending agenda that still requires a major national and international effort. Sustainable Development Goals require structural changes and the application of vigorous long-term policies. The Millennium Development Goals require immediate attention and we must forge ahead with their achievement and the building of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- We must strive rigorously towards changing consumption and production patterns. We must ensure that consumption patterns are changed through education, regulation, communication and monitoring of mercantilist systems that create addicted consumers, in order to promote the right to healthy and wholesome food instead of wasteful spending on consumption and buying for the enrichment of business.

- We must change patterns of production that pollute and overexploit natural resources. The planet cannot sustain excessive actions that destroy nature, going beyond its regenerative capability; we must promote activities of regulation, legislation, strengthening citizen rights and fostering a sound and healthy environment.

We do not subscribe to the vision of the so-called "green economy" which sees nature as "natural capital". That perspective leads to erroneously supposing that investing in what is called "capital" or "stock" will lead to resolving socioeconomic problems. The prevailing pattern of production and consumption is based on precisely that vision and has brought about extractivist activities with renewable and non-renewable resources that have caused grave environmental and social damage beyond nature's capacity for regeneration.

We are of the view that analyses which hold that the global crisis is caused by "gross misallocation of capital" concentrated on property, fossil fuels and financial activities are inadequate and erroneous. The crisis will not be resolved by reallocating capital and redirecting investments towards Natural Capital (with its components, i.e. forestry, agricultural, water and fisheries) and in particular the 10 strategic sectors being proposed, namely agriculture, construction, energy, fisheries, forestry, industry, tourism, transport, waste processing and water.

We will not improve human well-being and social equity by only redirecting and increasing investment towards natural capital or eliminating "perverse market incentives" with respect to natural capital. Let us not replace human values with investment efficiency. It is not investment per se or its orientation that will resolve the crisis. We are concerned that this school of thought may end in reducing sustainable development to an economic vision of development regardless of how green it may appear.

- Food security with sovereignty is now a central issue, particularly in a world in which threatened impacts of climate change are placing food production at grave risk, a world which promotes production of food for profit rather than to satisfy people's needs. We should promote continuing, healthful and sufficient access to food and nutritional knowledge for Living Well. No commercial, mercantilist or protectionist restrictions by developed countries should impede that access.

- It is necessary to clarify the different realities and necessities of each country in the framework of comprehensive development and poverty eradication. We cannot impose standardized obligations on all, counter to the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility. We do not understand how it is possible to demand of developing countries that they eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels when many developed countries are spending billions of dollars annually to subsidize agriculture, which is undoubtedly indirectly subsidizing fossil fuels and agro-technology packages, and thus the companies that profit from them. We cannot place demands on developing countries and reserve privileges for developed countries: that destroys small-scale indigenous and peasant production and makes our peoples more poor and vulnerable, in the same manner as the so-called free trade agreements, which imply more obligations for the poor and fewer obligations for the rich. We emphasize that equity and the right to development are principles that should apply in addressing these issues in the context of sustainable development goals.

- Education for innovation, science and technology should constitute a fundamental component in the design of sustainable development goals. Efforts should focus on prospects for promoting creativity and providing instruments and know-how, in the framework of strengthening cultural identities, dialogue between scientific disciplines and specialties and local, indigenous and peasant knowledge. We need to emphasize the social, to promote unfettered access by the world's peoples to technology for Living Well. The developed countries should eliminate obstacles to accessing technology and financing.

- Education should also be an instrument for fostering humanism and solidarity in harmony with Mother Earth. We must change the subjective structures of capitalist culture that nurture selfishness and competition rather than solidarity, respect and complementarity. Peace is a substantial factor in Living Well, unlike war and arms rivalry, which enrich the few and kill many. For these reasons, cultural dimensions should be included in sustainable development goals.

- Adaptation to climate change also occupies a central place in the development agenda. We must prepare conditions for adaptation, together with demanding that developed countries fulfil their obligations for climate change mitigation. Adaptation requires vigorous investment, transfer of technology and capacity development. The costs of adaptation have been estimated at approximately 100 billion dollars per year and the costs of mitigation in 2030 are estimated at 49 billion euros for Africa alone, and 34 billion euros for Latin America and the Caribbean. We cannot shoulder that responsibility alone, in addition to the costs of development, poverty eradication and losses and damage resulting from extreme events also caused by climate change. There must be a clear commitment to provide the means of implementation.

- We propose starting from a general vision of development in order to build sustainable development goals upon it. Some have called this vision one of central principles or criteria. For this vision, we propose considering the human person and nature together as the centre of development from a comprehensive and sustainable perspective. We consider development a means, not an end; the end is Living Well, for the full enjoyment of happiness. Our commercial, productive and productivist indicators do not take account of

that human and natural dimension of life. We must build a new paradigm and not repeat old development-minded patterns.

- We must work at the international level and within each country on building and strengthening a system of vigorous and complementary rights, rights of workers, of human beings, of women, of persons, of boys and girls, of adolescents, of youth, of indigenous people, of producers, of peasant communities, and of citizens in general. We cannot have workers subjected to exploitation and abuse by unbridled capitalism that sees them as resources or instruments rather than as people.

- We must empower the poor, giving them access to decision-making, to the material and spiritual means for Living Well, promoting equality in the framework of respect for their rights and access to resources and means of life.

- We must work arduously on the eradication of spiritual poverty: racism, discrimination, colonialism, male chauvinism, fascism, individualism, and consumerism, and replacing them by respect, solidarity, complementarity, peaceful living and community.

We consider it our duty to overcome a mercantilist and predatory capitalist model of nature and society, and to build a new world in which we can live together fraternally.

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Letter dated 3 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Attached herewith is the national report of Qatar entitled "National development planning and implementation: human development, sustainable development and national well-being" for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council, under item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National development planning and implementation: human development, sustainable development and national well-being

Summary

Governments everywhere are increasingly focused on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012, Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future and national well-being. The three pillars of sustainable development permeate Qatar's national planning.

Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016 set out a programme of initiatives aimed at maintaining a balance between the country's development needs and ensuring sustainable prosperity for future generations. The year 2013 provided an opportunity to review progress in the implementation of the National Development Strategy, including achievements made so far, challenges and directions for the period from 2014 to 2016. The National Development Strategy, midterm review was undertaken with the active engagement of stakeholders.

Qatar is committed to advancing the well-being of its population and has made tremendous progress in improving human development, moving from fifty-seventh out of 187 countries in 1997 to thirty-sixth in 2012 on the UNDP human development index. Maintaining progress requires continued social sector investments, in particular in young people. Overall success in achieving national development goals cannot be measured only through the use of traditional indicators. Based on subjective measures of well-being, overall 84 per cent of persons living in households in Qatar expressed that they were either very or somewhat satisfied with their lives.

Rapid infrastructure development and population growth, as well as the changes to social behaviour brought about by the country's financial wealth, are creating strains and stresses. Between 2008 and 2013, Qatar's population grew from 1.4 million to over 2 million. The rapid increase in the expatriate population and the labour force creates a wide range of challenges for national and sector planning strategies.

Qatar has a young population and the number of youth aged 15 to 24 has grown rapidly, from 14 per cent of the population in 2000 to 15.4 per cent in 2012. Investing time, efforts and resources in Qatar's youth will provide young men and women with opportunities and choices throughout their lifetime and help to build the human capital required for making Qatar National Vision 2030 a reality. The Ministry of Youth and Sports established in 2013 will increase support and investments in youth programmes and include the voices of young people in policy and decision-making processes.

The National Development Strategy midterm review identified several key lessons learned, including the need for ministries and agencies to establish executive plans with the National Development Strategy at their core and the need to establish mechanisms for greater sector-wide, cross-sector and inter-agency collaboration on National Development Strategy projects. It also recognized an urgent need for additional project management and technical capacity and expertise within the ministries and agencies for project implementation, monitoring and evaluation and for policy development.

I. Introduction: Qatar National Development Planning Framework

1. The focus of world leaders on sustainable development as the only viable way forward for our future and that of our children has been intensified through the high-level intergovernmental process to articulate a set of sustainable development goals with related targets and monitorable indicators for the post-2015 development agenda. Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The country's national development thrusts are aimed at simultaneously balancing social development, economic growth and environmental protection, taking account of their interlinkages.

2. Qatar National Vision 2030[1], launched in November 2008 by the then Heir Apparent, His Highness The Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, defines the country's long-term development outcomes and incorporates sustainability as its underlying principle. The Vision, built on four interrelated development pillars of human, social, economic and environmental development, mainstreams sustainable development. Cognizant of the challenges facing the country, the Vision envisages that national development will be carried out with responsibility and respect, balancing and integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions. It recognizes the critical importance of forging regional and international alliances consistent with the global partnership for development.

3. Qatar National Vision 2030 foresees Qatar becoming a vibrant, prosperous and advanced country with high standards of living and sustainable prosperity for all of its people. The Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016,[1] launched in March 2011, is a six-year programme of action that aligns the growth of national prosperity with the realities of environmental constraints, with sustainability threaded throughout. The National Development Strategy is aimed at advancing national transformation towards the goals and objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. It is the country's first national development strategy and also includes initiatives to modernize public sector institutions. It contains priority national development programmes, projects and initiatives for 14 sectors, with related outcomes and targets to be achieved by 2016. The National Development Strategy outcomes and targets are themselves a subset of those contained in 14 comprehensive sector strategy reports.

4. A review at the end of 2013, the midpoint of Qatar's six-year planning cycle, provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation progress of the National Development Strategy, learn lessons that will inform future planning and execution and identify critical gaps. Account was also taken of emerging new development priorities that had arisen in the period from 2010 to 2013 and that were not foreseen when the strategy was prepared in 2010 and to make the necessary adjustments at the sector and national levels. Qatar's comprehensive, integrated and aligned national development planning framework, fully endorsed and supported at the highest level of political leadership, is illustrated in figure I below.

[1] See www.gsdp.gov.qa/.

Figure I
Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016: an integrated national planning framework

Planning aligned at all levels top down and bottom up
Qatar National Vision 2030
• Defines national development goals
National Development Strategy 2011 – 2016
• Defines priority national initiatives for achieving Qatar National Vision 2030 goals
Midterm review 2013
• Learns lessons and realigns sector and national initiatives
Sector strategies 2011-2016
• Defines priority sector initiatives

5. With the involvement of relevant government ministries and agencies, the private sector and civil society and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Qatar also prepares periodic national human development reports on selected themes. These reports are aimed at supporting and providing inputs for the country's development planning and related policy initiatives. They serve as policy and advocacy tools aligned with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. Qatar's first national human development report (2006) addressed various general aspects of human development, the second (2009) focused on advancing sustainable development, and the third (2012) focused on expanding the capacities of Qatari youth.[2]

6. The substantial revenues from Qatar's hydrocarbon resources (natural gas and oil) provide ample means to invest in world-class infrastructure; build efficient delivery mechanisms for public services, especially health care, education and social protection; create a highly skilled and productive labour force; and support the development of entrepreneurship and innovation capabilities. The country's natural resource wealth also provides a means to invest in new technologies and frontier scientific research and development. It is thus anticipated that these investments will form a strong foundation for Qatar's long-term sustainable development vision.

Role of stakeholders in the national planning process of Qatar

7. Qatar's planning process strives to be highly participatory and inclusive across society. The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, which since June 2013 incorporates the General Secretariat for Development Planning, coordinates national planning, including Qatar National Vision 2030, the National Development

[2] *Expanding the Capacities of Qatari Youth: Mainstreaming Young People in Development*. Available from www.gsdp.gov.qa/.

Strategy and the midterm review of the National Development Strategy, as well as the national human development reports. Like the National Development Strategy itself, preparation in 2013 of the midterm review of the strategy mobilized and engaged stakeholders from all sectors. Stakeholder engagement spread from ministers and prominent leaders to a large number of public, private and civil society sector participants in 14 sector task teams.

8. The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics established a Project Management Office, and, with the technical support of the Ministry's substantive departments, developed templates and terms of reference and provided assistance to each of the 14 task teams. Each task team then prepared comprehensive evidence-based reviews of the national sector strategies and the progress they had made towards their development targets. This included the use of indicator frameworks linked to the targets.

9. The extensive and intensive intersectoral consultations, including interviews, discussions, debates and research, have been important for ensuring strong and positive ownership and legitimacy from the outset. Moreover, the Government benefited from a variety of inputs that have been crucial in identifying important weaknesses to be addressed through policies, regulations and investments, including through international agencies, such as the World Bank and UNDP.

Ensuring accountability

10. During the implementation phase of the National Development Strategy, a Supreme Committee for Development Planning chaired by the then Heir Apparent was established and met quarterly to review progress. The Committee's key roles were to set priorities for strategic and policy coordination, taking into account cross-sectoral dependencies and global commitments; follow up, monitor and evaluate implementation progress; and initiate measures to strengthen implementation performance.

11. Following the restructuring of government ministries and agencies in June 2013, the Supreme Committee for Development Planning was replaced in early 2014 by the Supreme Committee for Follow-up of the Implementation of the Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016, chaired by the Prime Minister, with a similar mandate. It aims to meet monthly.

Scope of the present report

12. The present report focuses on Qatar's progress in human development, sustainable development and national well-being. Section III below describes how the country's rapid population growth is a cross-cutting challenge for planning and implementation, focusing in particular on increasing vehicular traffic and road safety. The thematic focus of the last part of section III (see paras. 35-42) is on young people. The report concludes with some of the operational challenges and lessons learned from the National Development Strategy midterm review.

II. Human development, sustainable development and national well-being

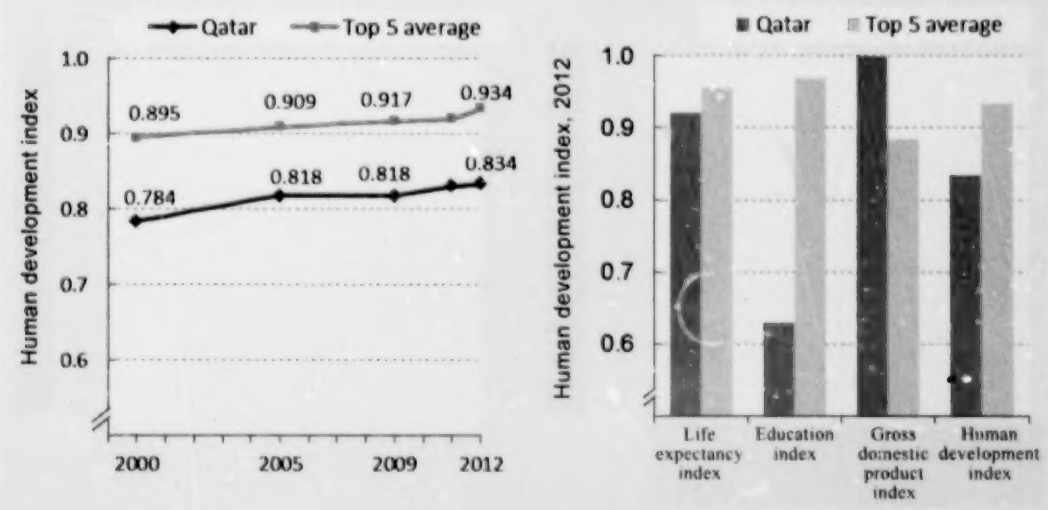
13. A critical goal of Qatar's national planning is to achieve the highest levels of human development, namely, to build human capital and increase the capacities, capabilities and choices of individuals, while balancing this aim with sustainable development. The programmes and initiatives of the Qatar National Development Strategy seek to contribute to this high-level goal and to sustain a high level of national well-being. Investments in human development are also critical for transitioning towards a more diversified knowledge-based economy.

Human development

14. Between 2000 and 2012, Qatar made remarkable progress in attaining high human development, as measured by the UNDP human development index. This composite index is defined in terms of three dimensions: (a) to have the capacity to live a long and healthy life; (b) to be educated and knowledgeable; and (c) to have access to assets, decent employment and income.

15. The country advanced to thirty-sixth out of 187 countries in the world in 2012, compared with fifty-first a decade earlier. Qatar has progressed relative to the world's top five countries. In terms of the three component dimensions of the human development index, Qatar now ranks the second highest globally in the gross national income per capita index, some 13 per cent above the top five countries, and its achievements in health are exemplary. However, Qatar's results in the education dimension still lag markedly behind the world's top five countries (see figure II below).

Figure II
Progress of Qatar in human development benchmarked against the world's top five countries



Source of data: United Nations Development Programme, 2013.

Balancing human development and environmental protection

16. An overarching goal of Qatar National Vision 2030 goal is to achieve a balance between development needs and protecting the environment. Sustainable development represents a commitment to advancing human well-being, with the added constraint that this development needs to take place within the ecological limits of the biosphere.

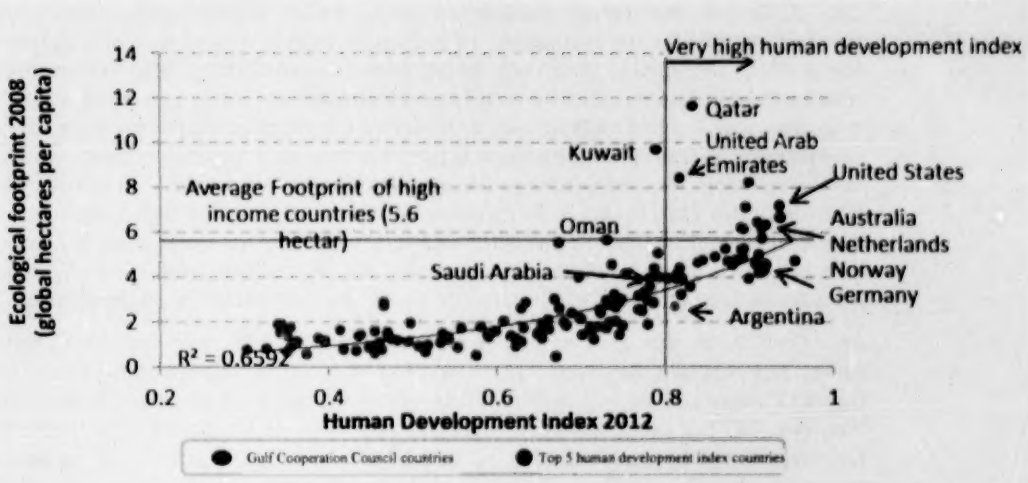
17. Progress in both these dimensions of sustainable development can be assessed using the UNDP human development index as an indicator of human development and the World Wildlife Fund ecological footprint as an indicator of human demand on the biosphere. A human development index of 0.8 or above and a per capita ecological footprint of less than the globally available biocapacity per person (1.8 global hectares per capita) (World Wildlife Fund, 2012) represent minimum requirements for long-term sustainable development that is globally replicable.[3]

18. In 2012, Qatar's human development index was the highest among Gulf Cooperation Council countries; yet, according to the World Wildlife Fund's *Living Planet Report 2012: Biodiversity, biocapacity and better choices*, Qatar's ecological footprint increased from 10.5 to 11.7 global hectares per capita between 2007 and 2008. At 11.7 global hectares per capita Qatar has the highest ecological footprint compared with the average footprint of high-income countries, which is 5.6 global hectares per capita, and the global average footprint of 2.6 global hectares per capita (see figure III below).

19. The country continues to face critical challenges with its unique natural environment under stress as a result of urbanization and very rapid population growth, rising air pollution, increased waste, a rising water table and pressures on its natural habitats. Many National Development Strategy initiatives are trying to address these challenges. For example, through the Strategy project to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from oil and gas flaring using new technology, in 2012, flaring intensity volumes per energy produced were reduced by almost half compared with 2008 levels.

[3] Moran and others, "Measuring sustainable development: Nation by nation", *Ecological Economics*, vol. 64, No. 3 (2008), pp. 470-474.

Figure III
Human development index of Qatar



Note: The human development index of Qatar compares favourably with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the top five human development index countries but Qatar has the highest ecological footprint.

National well-being

20. Traditionally, changes in national prosperity have been measured using gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and other macroeconomic indicators and, more broadly over the past 25 years or so, through the use of the human development index and other composite indexes. In recent years, it has been increasingly realized that success in achieving national development goals cannot be measured only through the use of traditional indicators.

21. One reason for this is that rising prosperity in economic terms can be accompanied by other serious challenges such as those facing Qatar. Examples are environmental degradation, including too rapid population and urban growth with its negative externalities of traffic and air pollution and stresses on public services, as well as ill health, including the modern lifestyle diseases of obesity, diabetes and mental stress. In a relatively short period, Qatar has achieved the highest per capita income in the world and material prosperity. Yet, this has been gained at the expense of a significant deterioration in the quality of life, including weakening of family cohesion and challenges to Qatari traditional values.

22. National well-being measures provide information to policymakers and citizens about social and economic progress. They can, for example, allow policymakers to target groups that have been shown to have the greatest need for improved well-being. They may also be used to help people to make decisions that can influence their future well-being.

23. Overall, life evaluation measures have traditionally been based on responses to a single question which asks the respondents to imagine that their current life is like a ladder, with the best possible life ranking as 10 (or 5) and the worst possible life ranking 0, and to provide a score ranging from 0 to 10 (or 1 to 5 as in Qatar's 2012 multi-indicator cluster survey) that best describes their overall level of satisfaction.

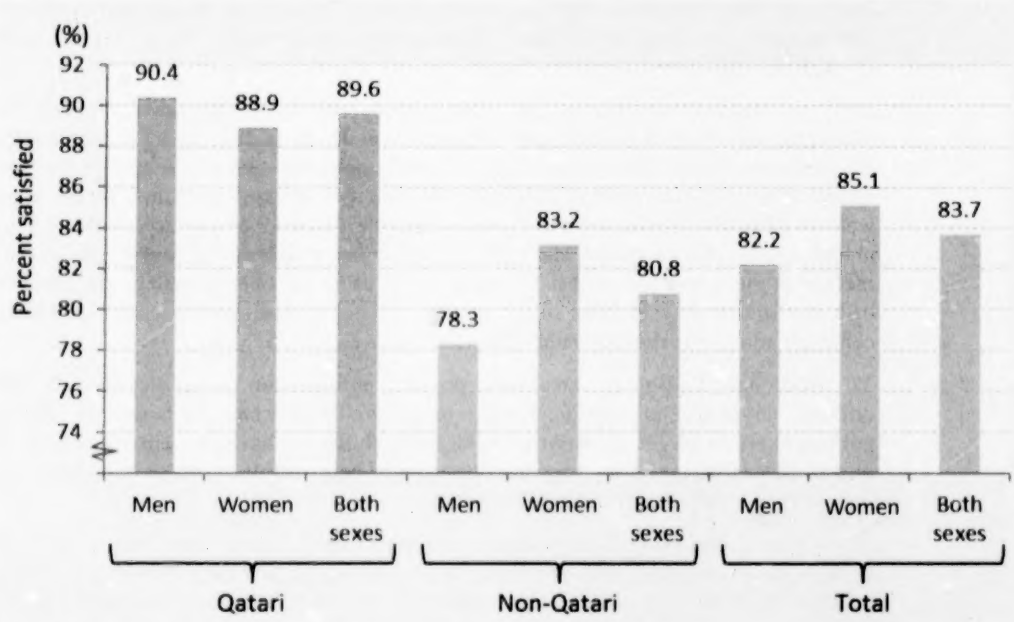
This one-dimensional approach is often used in Gallup poll-type surveys and was also included in the multi-indicator cluster survey.

24. A deeper and more detailed approach, which disaggregates overall life satisfaction, focuses on evaluations of particular aspects or domains of a person's life, such as satisfaction with their health status or satisfaction with their personal relationships and so on. These domain evaluations, also based on responses to single questions, can be used on their own or to derive a composite overall measure of life satisfaction, instead of relying on a single response to a particular question. This latter approach was adopted by Qatar using the more detailed data from the multi-indicator cluster survey to examine individual domains of satisfaction and to derive an overall composite measure of life satisfaction for Qatar. The composite measure based on the eight domains provides a more realistic evaluation of overall life satisfaction compared with a measure based on a response to a single question.

25. Overall, 84 per cent of respondents to Qatar's 2012 multi-indicator cluster survey reported that they were either very or somewhat satisfied with their life (see figure IV below). A slightly higher percentage of women were satisfied (85 per cent) than men (82 per cent). Conversely, 16 per cent were less satisfied with their life. Qataris are much more satisfied with their life than non-Qataris; of particular concern is the group with the lowest level of satisfaction, namely, male non-Qataris with below secondary education and aged between 25 and 49 years. The Government intends to monitor changes over time to assess how people's satisfaction levels are responding to national development efforts.

Figure IV

Percentage of Qatari and non-Qatari men and women satisfied with their life, 2012



Source of data: Qatar Statistics Authority multi-indicator cluster survey, 2012.

III. Rapid population growth as a cross-cutting planning and implementation challenge

26. During the implementation of the National Development Strategy, Qatar's population has continued to grow at an exceptional pace, averaging 6.7 per cent per year between 2008 and 2013. Overall, the population increased by more than 200,000 people between 2012 and 2013 alone, when the population exceeded 2 million for the first time. An increase of almost a quarter of a million people is expected between 2013 and 2014. This high and unsustainable level of population growth is primarily a result of the continued massive inflows of expatriates, predominantly young and less-skilled male workers.

27. The rapid growth in the expatriate population is being fuelled by Qatar's ambitious infrastructure programme, including a new airport, seaport, metro, schools and hospitals, as well as stadiums being built for the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) 2022 World Cup and for the country's future aspirations. The massive growth in population is affecting all development areas, including amenities and facilities, especially in and around Doha, where the bulk of the population is concentrated.

28. There are sound economic reasons for not introducing restrictions on labour supply that could severely delay the completion of existing projects. In general, the high number of expatriates supports Qatar's economic growth but it also creates a situation where economic output is heavily dependent on the presence of non-Qataris.

29. Nonetheless, the rapid increase in the expatriate population and the labour force creates a wide range of challenges for national and sector planning strategies. Beyond increasing pressure on the sectors of the economy needed to service the workers and their dependants, it creates a number of risks:

(a) Social: Existing social infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and low-cost housing, was not built to support the needs of a very rapidly growing expatriate population and some Qataris may feel crowded out of services;

(b) Cultural: There is a potential for traditional Qatari Arab and Islamic cultural values and identity to be diluted, even though interactions may be limited owing to language and/or sociocultural barriers;

(c) Economic: If for any reason, large numbers of expatriates suddenly leave Qatar, not only will their productivity capabilities be lost and projects be delayed, but a secondary downturn in the economy will occur when their spending is lost;

(d) Environmental: Significant environmental degradation has already occurred (for example, traffic congestion, urban land scarcity and so on) and will continue until infrastructure can be increased to match the needs of the population and behavioural patterns change;

(e) Safety and security: Building safety may be compromised, road traffic accidents and injuries could increase and the capacity of the criminal justice system could be strained.

30. These challenges are compounded by the multi-ethnic and skill composition of the new additions to the population. Of the large number of expatriate workers, some 50 per cent are semi-skilled and 25 per cent are unskilled. Their literacy levels

are generally relatively low. Moreover, the vast majority are from non-Arab countries, especially from South Asia, and most do not understand or speak Arabic or even English.

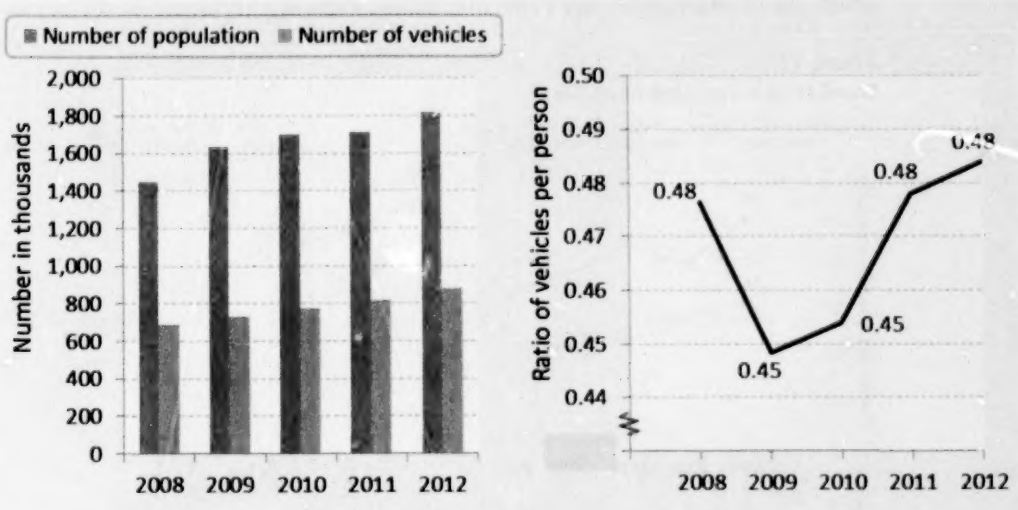
Increasing vehicular traffic and road safety

31. With the rapidly increasing population, the number of licensed vehicles of all types on the roads, especially in and around Doha, has also increased markedly (see table 1 below). During the period from 2008 to 2012, the growth in the number of vehicles mirrored population growth, rising at an average annual rate of around 6 per cent (see figure V below). Consequences of the growth in motor vehicles include frequent road traffic congestion and road traffic accidents, as well as higher levels of carbon dioxide emissions, which affect quality of life. The enhanced risk of traffic accidents has been compounded by the larger increase in heavy vehicular traffic (see table 1). This is explained by the continued increase in infrastructural megaprojects, including road construction.

Table 1
Growth in registered vehicles, 2008 to 2012
(Thousands)

Year	*Private cars*	*Private buses and trucks*	*Heavy vehicles and trailers*	*Government, police, diplomatic, taxis and buses*	*Motorcycles*	***Total***
2008	432.6	173.3	42.7	30.5	10.7	**689.8**
2009	456.4	187.2	47.6	30.0	11.5	**732.7**
2010	484.9	186.8	57.7	31.7	11.5	**772.5**
2011	515.6	197.5	59.4	31.9	12.6	**816.9**
2012	562.3	211.4	58.1	32.8	12.5	**877.1**
Percentage of annual growth 2008-2012	6.6	5.0	7.7	1.8	4.0	**6.0**
Percentage change 2008-2012	30.0	22.0	36.1	7.4	17.4	**27.2**

Figure V
Growth in motor vehicles, 2008 to 2012



Note: The growth in motor vehicles mirrors the growth in population. Average annual growth rates, 2008-2012: Population = 5.6%, Vehicles = 6.0%.

32. The total number of accidents resulting in a fatality or injury increased by 31 per cent, or at an average annual rate of 7 per cent, during the period from 2008 to 2012. This was slightly higher than the 27 per cent increase in the number of registered vehicles during the same period. The largest increase occurred in accidents involving minor injuries (37 per cent), while accidents resulting in serious injuries increased by only 4 per cent. Fatalities from traffic accidents fell by 11 per cent and the rate of road traffic deaths per 100,000 population dropped to 11 in 2012.

33. Implementation of the National Development Strategy road traffic safety projects appears to have succeeded in achieving a significant decline in traffic fatalities. However, they have not reduced the rate of accidents per 100,000 population, which increased from 317 in 2008 to 328 in 2012. The decline in the number of fatal accidents could be attributed in part to a slower movement of traffic as a result of the increasing congestion on the roads and to the faster response of emergency services and improved levels of medical care. Despite this aggregate decline, there are three striking features of the fatalities that National Development Strategy initiatives seek to address (see figure VI below):

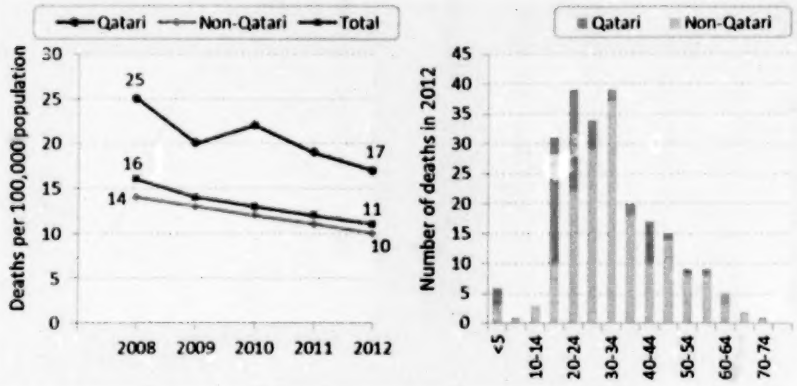
(a) Higher rate of fatalities among Qataris: While the rate of fatalities per 100,000 Qataris declined from 25 in 2008 to 17 in 2012, it remains more than 50 per cent above the average for the country;

(b) Large number of deaths of young people aged 15 to 24 years, in particular Qataris: Qatari youth are disproportionately dying in road traffic accidents;

(c) High proportion of pedestrian deaths among the traffic accident fatalities: The proportion of pedestrian fatalities declined from 32 per cent to 28 per cent in

2012. This is far off the National Development Strategy target of reducing the proportion of pedestrian deaths to 17 per cent by 2016. The highest number of pedestrian deaths were among non-Qatari men between the ages of 20 and 44 years, which mirrors the working age population of non-Qataris.

Figure VI
Road traffic accident fatalities



Sources of data: Qatar Statistics Authority (various years) and 2012 data from the Ministry of the Interior; Supreme Council of Health 2013.

Note: Road traffic accident death rates have fallen from their peak but are very high for Qatari youth.

34. The highest number of Qatari fatalities occurred among persons aged 15 to 19 years, followed by those aged 20 to 24 years. Car drivers accounted for 35 per cent of accident fatalities and reckless driving and speeding have been identified as important contributory factors. This suggests that a high proportion of deaths could be explained by the recklessness of young Qatari drivers, to whom education campaigns are being directed, including at high schools.

Youth as a policy and programmatic focus

35. Qatar's youth are considered major human resources for development and effective agents of positive social change. Harnessing their ideals, enthusiasm and creativity, with supporting technological innovation, can significantly contribute to meeting the country's development goals. Advancing the country towards a diversified knowledge-based economy requires focus, coordination and investment of resources in young people. Qatari youth, who are growing in number (see table 2 below), are facing several challenges, as outlined below.

Table 2
Youth population of Qatar (aged 15 to 24 years), 2000 to 2012
(Thousands)

	2000	*2005*	*2010*	*2012*
Qatari	31.0	37.6	47.7	50.5
Non-Qatari	55.1	117.2	204.8	231.2
Total	**86.1**	**154.8**	**252.5**	**281.7**
Youth as percentage of total populatic:.	14.0	17.1	14.9	15.4

Source of data: Qatar Statistics Authority (2013): Mid-year estimate 2013.
Note: The youth population of Qatar is growing rapidly.

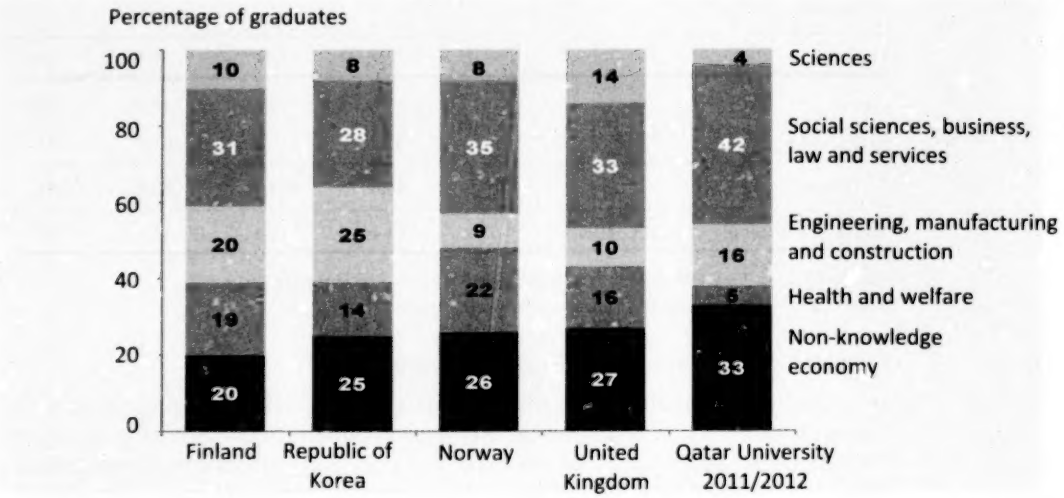
Changing demographic and socioeconomic settings

36. Qatar is undergoing many demographic changes, including rising age at first marriage, decreases in childbearing, increases in childlessness and rising levels of divorce. Qatari youth are being positively and negatively affected by globalization, especially the revolution in information and communications technology. The trends call for intercultural understanding and tolerance, as well as intergenerational dialogue.

Building knowledge and developing skills

37. Aiming to achieve world-class standards, Qatar has made huge investments in education and training infrastructure at all levels. Multiple opportunities now exist for young Qataris. However, education performance, as measured through national and international tests in maths, sciences and English language, is not progressing at a commensurate pace, despite a decade of reforms. Stronger incentives to encourage young people, especially boys, to continue through the tertiary level are required. Qataris must have the knowledge and skills, and must take courses relevant for a knowledge economy (see figure VII below), to compete in an increasingly borderless and cross-cultural world. Education needs to encourage analytical and critical thinking, creativity and innovation.

Figure VII
Courses taken by university graduates

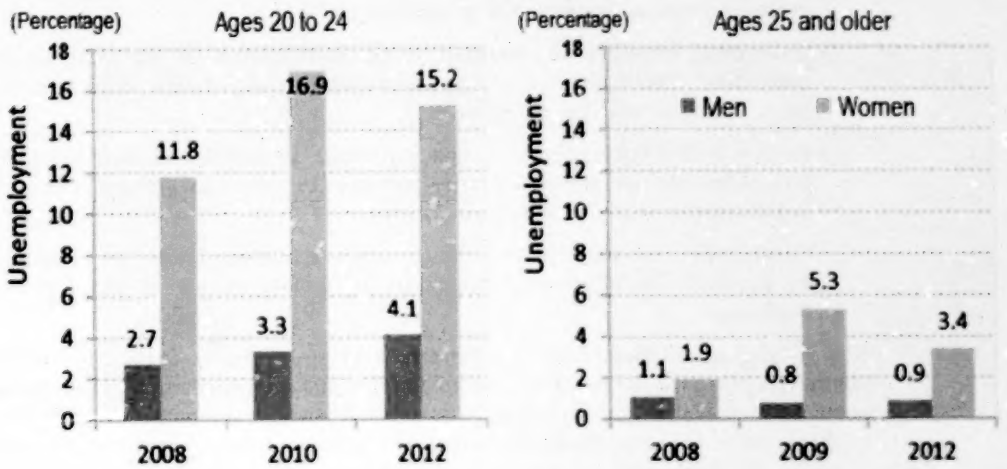


Note: The National Development Strategy supports transition to a knowledge economy. In 2012, 33 per cent of Qatar University graduates had taken courses relevant for a non-knowledge-based economy.

Enhancing labour force participation

38. Overall unemployment levels in Qatar are extremely low, except among new female entrants to the labour force (see figure VIII below). Young Qataris have previously undreamed-of choices and opportunities on joining the labour market. However, many lack the skills and qualifications to take full advantage of them. Qatar's economic diversification aspirations necessitate building the country's human capital to create a more productive and skilled labour force. Given that the number of new Qatari entrants to the labour force each year is markedly lower than what the economy demands, it is imperative that incentive structures be strengthened to increase youth labour force participation at higher skill levels. Second-chance programmes that give Qatari youth who have not completed secondary education the opportunity to salvage their life prospects, reduce the waste of valuable human resources and increase the number of Qataris in the labour force are being offered.

Figure VIII
Unemployment rates, 2008-2012



Sources of data: Qatar Statistics Authority labour force surveys 2008-2012 and Census 2010.
Note: Unemployment rates during the period from 2008 to 2012 were low overall but relatively higher for young Qatari women.

Improving health and well-being

39. As in most affluent societies, being overweight or obese is highly prevalent among young Qataris. Qatar University is trying to address overweight and obesity among Qatari youth through an adapted cognitive behavioural approach developed through intersectoral and international partnerships with, inter alia, the Hamad Medical Corporation, the Supreme Education Council, Aspire Zone, Imperial College London and Leeds Metropolitan University. Initiatives are also being undertaken to promote self-care, reduce risk-taking behaviour and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle among young people.

Empowering young people and promoting civic participation

40. Today's young men and women are tomorrow's workers, parents, citizens and leaders. Young people need an enabling environment in which they are encouraged to participate in their own and Qatar's development. Young people are an asset to their communities. Pathways are needed to ensure their inclusion and participation in all aspects of development, including through volunteering. Opportunities for broader youth participation need to be created not only in the public sector, but also in the private sector, through partnerships that encourage market orientation, build leadership capacity and promote youth enterprise and entrepreneurship.

41. Based on a detailed study to mainstream Qatari youth in national development, five broad recommendations were made to the Government:

- Develop an integrated and comprehensive policy framework that ensures that young people have pathways to meaningful participatory roles in all facets of society

- Broaden the incentives and opportunities for young people to sustain educational experien in advanced areas of knowledge, skills and communication that will meet the demands of the labour market and add value at the personal, community and national levels
- Strengthen measures to increase youth participation in an increasingly diversified labour market and to reintegrate young people who are not participating to their full potential
- Review and reinforce policies that contribute to health and well-being by promoting self-care and preventative measures to reduce risk-taking behaviour and damaging lifestyles among young people
- Ensure that all national legislation and regulation create an enabling environment for effective participation by young people in development processes.

42. In support of these recommendations, a single umbrella agency for youth affairs was proposed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of a national youth development policy, including cross-sectoral youth development programmes. In 2013, as part of the Qatari Government's public sector restructuring, a new Ministry of Youth and Sports was established to take these recommendations forward.

IV. Conclusions: Some lessons learned from the National Development Strategy midterm review

Importance of agency executive plans

43. Good governance requires that individual enablers be in place and that the enablers be connected and well-coordinated within a coherent structure that supports delivery. Outcomes and targets need to be mainstreamed into organizations' management systems to enhance ownership. Ministries and agencies must have their own strategic executive plans with National Development Strategy priorities at their core. An executive plan should identify the institutional and human resource capabilities required, the organization and administrative systems, budget and supporting activities that need to be put in place, including information systems and databases, as well as procedural manuals and protocols. It should also identify key strategic partners who will support implementation. An efficient performance management system needs be put in place to ensure that all staff are accountable for delivery.

Mechanisms for sector-wide, cross-sector and inter-agency collaboration

44. Sector-wide, cross-sector and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to deliver National Development Strategy outcomes and targets are critical. While overall responsibility for the National Development Strategy projects will remain with the lead ministries and agencies, other relevant agencies need to take responsibility for the delivery of some projects or major components of them.

45. There must also be good cooperation with the private sector and with such international organizations as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO), the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as regional cooperation with the Gulf States. A culture that encourages sharing of data and the integration of systems within and across sectors is being encouraged.

Building human resource capacities

46. A critical precondition for successful National Development Strategy implementation must include capacity-building both in relation to project management skills and subject matter expertise. There are currently insufficient numbers of technical staff in many ministries and agencies to deal with the large increase in projects, regulation and enforcement activities needed. Specialist support, including through outsourcing, is needed to improve the information, processes, systems and laws in place to enable the ministry and agency technical staff to do their jobs efficiently.

Media and communications

47. The National Development Strategy has multiple stakeholders across all sectors, including government agencies, industry, academia and non-governmental organizations, as well as ordinary citizens. A long-term comprehensive communications strategy targeting these stakeholders is needed; this strategy should be designed to increase transparency, mobilize support, provide clarity on objectives and report on implementation progress.

48. The communications strategy should take into account the need to raise awareness of the National Development Strategy and the sector targets. It must be evidence-based and should be aimed at different audiences. Currently, a number of communications channels, including the Internet, national media, face-to-face communication and written briefings, are being used. The development of more website content and functionality, e-newsletters and social network bulletins, together with regular stakeholder meetings, will enhance the National Development Strategy communications strategy going forward between 2014 and 2016.